

**LOCATION AND MAKING.**—Selecting a well-drained location, and one never flooded by rain, excavate a pit one or two feet deep, and one foot longer and one foot broader than the box. Into this place six inches of rough barnyard manure, corn stalks, leaves or straw, for drainage, and on it lightly fork in the fermenting dung and tramp it firmly down to a depth of two feet. Place on the box and fit the sash lightly, cover with mats and allow fermentation to again proceed, banking up with hot manure on the outside all around at an angle of 45°. Place on top of the manure a layer of three inches of rich, moist, finely pulverized soil. In a day or so the temperature will rise to 120°. When the temperature has fallen to 90° destroy all the weeds which have sprouted, and sow the seed for which the bed is intended. Cover every night with mats to exclude frost, and give air during the day, never allowing the temperature to fall below 70° or rise above 90°. The secret of growing good plants is to give plenty of air, else the plants will be sickly, spindly specimens. Short, stocky plants are what are desired. Sow the seed in rows three inches apart and one-quarter to one-third inch deep, and cover by sifting on fine earth.

**CARE OF HOTBEDS.**—Water every evening. Remove the mats every morning about nine o'clock, give air about ten o'clock. Cut off the air in the afternoon as soon as the air becomes the least chilly. Cover with mats before sunset. Hotbeds should be covered early in the evening, to retain their heat, and in the morning uncovered when the sun rests upon the glass, as every effect should be made to give the plants all the sunlight possible, as its rays are vivifying to a degree beyond the amount of its heat, it having a chemical and physiological effect beyond explanation. Even dull light is better than no light, consequently it is a bad plan to cover sashes with mats, except for the direct purpose of keeping out cold. Pepper and egg plants require more heat than other plants. Success depends on bottom heat from the manure, top heat from the sun, water from daily application, and air at midday. Without plenty of air the other requisites will be fruitless. All seedlings should be transplanted into other hotbeds or intermediate beds when two inches high. Hotbeds may be used for forcing lettuce, radish, egg plant, pepper, tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower and ornamental flowers.

**ARTIFICIAL HEAT.**—We have known locations where stable manure for hotbeds was not readily obtained, and to meet such conditions we give the following directions for manufacturing a fermenting material for the production of a moderate and continuous heat, the quantities named being sufficient for a box twelve by seven feet. Take as the crude materials, 500 lbs. of straw, three bush. powdered quicklime, six lbs. muriatic acid, six lbs. saltpetre. Having prepared the excavation of proper dimensions, spread three or four inches of forest leaves or old hay in the bottom. Upon that spread eight inches of the straw, tramp it down and sprinkle with one-third part of the quicklime. Dilute the six pounds of muriatic acid with twenty gallons of water, and, by means of an old bloom,